

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 16, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to express our extreme concern over the decision by the Committee for Financial Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to allow Dubai Ports World to acquire operations at six critical American ports. Improved port security is a top priority for this Congress. The startling prospect of a port operations company owned by the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), controlling the ports of Philadelphia, New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, and Miami, has raised questions about the capacity of the CFIUS to make sound judgments regarding national security. We strongly urge to you closely examine this decision, and to act to prevent its implementation. In addition, the Department of Defense designated Philadelphia's port as a National Strategic Port. The sale would transfer a vital national defense asset to a foreign nation in an unstable region.

America's ports, so important to the American economy, are also among our nation's most vulnerable security targets. Congress has been working closely with your administration to secure the tremendous amount of uninspected cargo that passes through our ports each day. Since September 11, 2001, an abundance of new technologies has been brought forward to help prevent the nightmare scenario all Americans dread. While progress has been made, the job of securing our ports is still largely unfinished. This seems precisely not the time to allow such a controversial transfer to take place.

While your administration considers the United Arab Emirates an ally in the war on terror, it is nonetheless a nation that on some levels has had an association with terrorism. It is well known that funding for the attacks of September 11, 2001 passed through banks in the UAE. Additionally, several of the 9/11 hijackers traveled to the United States from the UAE. One of the September 11 hijackers was born in the UAE, and many experts consider it a haven for radical Islam. While the leaders of the UAE and the vast majority of her citizens may well have the best intentions, it is nonetheless questionable policy to gamble the security of our ports on that proposition. Nations with ties to terrorism should not be in control of the most vulnerable gateways to our nation, especially in a time of war.

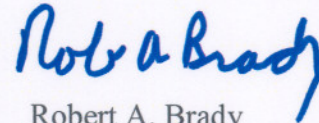
We are confident that you will closely scrutinize whatever rationale led the CFIUS to permit this acquisition. In the meantime, we can assure you that Congress will be examining not only this particular case, but the very process set in place by the Exon-

Florio amendment to the Defense Production Act. It may be that the Department of the Treasury is not best suited to lead the CFIUS in a day and age when security trumps economic considerations. Be assured that we look forward to working with you on these issues in the best interests of our nation's security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Curt Weldon".

CURT WELDON
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Brady".

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress